

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2868

**Introduced by Assembly Members ~~Aghazarian and Bogh~~ Member
*Bogh***

February 24, 2006

An act to amend Section 2633 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2868, as amended, ~~Aghazarian~~ *Bogh*. Physical therapists.

Existing law, the Physical Therapy Practice Act, licenses and regulates the practice of physical therapy by the Physical Therapy Board of California in the Department of Consumer Affairs, and makes a violation of the act's provisions a crime. Existing law prohibits a physical therapist from using the prefix "Dr.", the word "doctor," or any suffix or affix indicating that the person is a doctor or physician and surgeon.

This bill would authorize a licensed physical therapist to use the term "doctor" and the abbreviation "Dr." preceding the licensee's name if certain requirements are met.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2633 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:

1 2633. (a) A person holding a license as a physical therapist
2 issued by the board may use the title “physical therapist” or the
3 letters “P.T.” or any other words, letters or figures that indicate
4 that the person using same is a licensed physical therapist. No
5 other person shall be so designated or shall use the term licensed
6 or registered physical therapist, licensed or registered
7 physiotherapist, licensed or registered physical therapy
8 technician, or the letters “L.P.T.,” “R.P.T.,” or “P.T.”.

9 (b) A licensed physical therapist who has received the degree
10 of Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Doctor of Philosophy
11 (PhD), or Doctor of Education (EdD), or *any* other equivalent
12 degree from an accredited institution may do the following:

13 (1) In a written communication, use the initials DPT, PhD, or
14 EdD, as applicable, following the licensee’s name.

15 (2) In a written communication, use the title “Doctor” or the
16 abbreviation “Dr.” preceding the licensee’s name, if the
17 licensee’s name is immediately followed by an unabbreviated
18 specification of the applicable doctoral degree held by the
19 licensee.

20 (3) In a spoken communication while engaged in the practice
21 of physical therapy, use the title “doctor” preceding the person’s
22 name, if the speaker specifies that he or she is a physical
23 therapist.